

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 SY-10 USSS-00 A-01 OPR-02

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-13 AID-20 SCA-01

DRC-01 /164 W

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R 101530Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4168

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS PFOR XF FR

SUBJECT: PALESTINIAN TERRORIST OPERATION AT PARIS

REF: BEIRUT 10607

1. AS ON MANY PAST OCCASIONS, LATEST PALESTINIAN
TERRORIST OPERATION AGAINST SAUDI EMBASSY AT PARIS
HAS BEGUN PRODUCE ANTICIPATED REVERBERATIONS IN
BEIRUT. INDEPENDENT AN NAHAR ON SEPT 8 REPORTED RECEIPT
OF ANONYMOUS LOCAL COMMUNIQUE DATED SEPT 7, SIGNED BY
"PALESTINIAN-JORDANIAN LIBERATION MOVEMENT--PUNISHMENT
ORGANIZATION", CLAIMING RESPONSIBILITY FOR PARIS
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OPERATION AND STATING IT DIRECTED AGAINST "REACTIONARY

SAUDI REGIME, ALLY OF AMERICAN IMPERIALISM," WHICH ALLEGEDLY TRYING INFLUENCE EGYPT, SYRIA AND SUDAN TO "CONCLUDE RAPPROCHEMENT BETWEEN PALESTINE RESISTANCE AND TRAITOROUS HASHEMITE REGIME." LEFTIST AL UNWAR ALSO REPORTED RECEIVING SEPARATE COMMUNIQUE FROM SAME GROUP WHICH ATTACKED NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE AT ALGIERS AS "FULLY ALIGNED WITH AMERICAN IMPERIALISM."

2. WE NOTE ALSO THAT PRO-FEDAYEEN BEIRUT PAPERS, NOTABLY AL MUHARRIR, PERFORMED EDITORIAL FLIP-FLOPS BEGINNING SEPT 8 BY DEPARTING FROM LINE (REFTEL) THAT PARIS TERRORISTS WERE "ISRAELI AGENTS" AND SUDDENLY LAUDING THEM AS "PALESTINIAN HEROES" WHO, HOWEVER DESPERATE AND UNSUCCESSFUL, WERE SEEKING PRAISEWORTHY GOAL OF ABU DAUD'S RELEASE. ON SEPT 9, PFLP WEEKLY AL HADAF CARRIED LEAD ARTICLE CRITICIZING PLO OFFICIALS FOR THEIR PUBLIC STATEMENTS DISAPPROVING PARIS OPERATION. ALTHOUGH HADAF STOPPED SHORT OF CLAIMING PFLP RESPONSIBILITY, IT STRONGLY DEFENDED OPERATION AS DIRECTED AGAINST "OPPRESSORS AND CRIMINALS IN AMMAN".

3. AT SAME TIME, AN NAHAR AND ITS FRENCH-LANGUAGE SISTER L'ORIENT-LE JOUR CARRIED SPECIAL DESPATCHES FROM THEIR CORRESPONDENTS IN ALGIERS REPORTING THAT HIGH-LEVEL SAUDI OFFICIALS ARE CONVINCED PFLP TERRORIST CHIEF WADI' HADDAD MASTERMINED PARIS OPERATION. SAME REPORTS ASSERT THAT A'ARAFAT AND OTHER PLO REPS IN ALGIERS SHARE THIS VIEW AND THAT THEY INTEND SETTLE ACCOUNTS WITH HADDAD AND PFLP AT EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY.

4. COMMENT: WHILE PFLP'S HADDAD, ON BASIS OF PAST PERFORMANCE (E.G., JULY HIJACKING OF JAPANESE AIRLINER), IS INDEED STRONG CANDIDATE FOR SUSPICION IN CONNECTION WITH PARIS INCIDENT, WE ARE NOT RPT NOT PREPARED AT THIS JUNCTURE TO ABSOLVE FATAH/BSO FACTION IN LIBYA LED BY SALAH KHALAF OF COMPLICITY. (KHALAF IS BELIEVED TO HAVE OCCASIONALLY COOPERATED WITH HADDAD IN MOUNTING PAST TERRORISTS OPERATIONS ABROAD.) MOREOVER, TACTIC OF THROWING BLAME ON PFLP, WHICH HAS LONG BEEN ANATHEMA TO SAG, WOULD SUIT PERFECTLY FEDAYEEN NEED TO PRESERVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REMUNERATIVE TIES WITH KING FEISAL. TO DATE, HOWEVER, WE HAVE NO HARD EVIDENCE IMPLICATING EITHER GROUP. BUFFUM

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